

Eagle Ridge Academy Second Grade

At Eagle Ridge Academy, we follow the Core Knowledge Framework and the Minnesota State Standards for Language Arts; History and Geography; Visual Arts; Music; Mathematics; and Science. Core Knowledge provides a solid foundation for learning by building upon student knowledge and skills from one year to the next and eliminating gaps in student learning.

Students will receive instruction in the following areas during Second Grade:

Language Arts: Our reading program is done through guided reading, read-alouds, and Saxon phonics (this program includes a handwriting component). We use Shurley English for writing and grammar. Students also use Wordly Wise for vocabulary development.

Benchmarks: In reading, students will focus on decoding; word recognition and oral reading; work on reading comprehension and response; study poetry; fictional stories, mythology of Ancient Greece, American folk heroes, and tall tales; and literary terms. In writing, students will produce a variety of writing (stories, reports, letters, poems, descriptions, paragraphs); editing and revising skills; and work on spelling with Words Their Way, grammar, and usage. They will also learn sayings and phrases.

History and Geography: The topics studied will include geography with spatial sense (working with maps, globes, geographic tools); geographical terms and features; geography of the Americas (North and South America); early civilizations (India, China, Ancient Greece); modern civilizations and cultures (Japan); American government (The Constitution); War of 1812; westward expansion (pioneers and Native Americans); the Civil War; immigration and citizenship; civil rights; voting, and symbols and figures.

Visual Arts: The topics will include the elements of art; sculpture; landscapes; abstract art; and architecture.

Music: The topics will include the elements of music through participation (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre); music notation; listening and understanding (the orchestra); keyboard instruments (knowledge and basic technical performance skills); composers and their music; singing folk songs and dancing or moving responsively to music.

Mathematics: We follow the Saxon Math curriculum that allows for the development of foundational concepts and critical thinking skills, and concepts are developed, reviewed, and practiced over time. This curriculum is effective in reaching and challenging student at all levels. The scope and sequence of the curriculum provides instruction in Numbers and Operations; Measurement; Geometry; Patterns; Algebra and Functions; Statistics; Data Analysis and Probability; Problem Solving; Communication; Mathematical Reasoning and Connections. **Benchmarks:** The topics will include patterns and classification; numbers and number sense; money; computation with addition and subtraction; solving problems and equations; measurement; time; and geometry.

Science: In Science, teachers utilize the FOSS science kits to model experiments to develop science skills. **Benchmarks:** The topics will include seasonal cycles; cycles in nature (life cycles, insects); the water cycle; the human body (cells, digestive and excretory systems, a healthy diet); magnetism; simple machines; matter and properties of matter (measurement); and science biographies.

Latin: Students receive weekly instruction in simple Latin vocabulary, derivatives, and culture.

Physical Education: Students in second grade receive instruction in physical education three times a week.